

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NATHAN EUGENE
FLETCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Eugene Fletcher. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Eugene Fletcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING DR. BRENDA
HELLYER, CHANCELLOR OF SAN
JACINTO COLLEGE

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional educator, San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer, on receiving the prestigious Quasar Award for Economic Development Excellence from the Bay Area Houston Partnership (BAHEP). BAHEP presents its renowned Quasar Award to an outstanding elected official or business leader who has demonstrated a strong and continual effort to support the business foundations of the greater Bay Area Houston communities.

Dr. Hellyer grew up in Hays, Kansas, a small town of nearly 12,000 in the heart of wheat and cattle country. She is the second of four children—three girls and a boy. Her father was a truck driver for Rainbow Bread and later served as a custodian at the local elementary school. Her mother was a housewife until her youngest sister started school, and then began a career as a school cook and baker.

Dr. Hellyer earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Fort Hays State University, and both her master's degree in business administration and a doctorate in community college leadership from the University of Texas at Austin. She received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin in spring

2009. Dr. Hellyer is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensed in Texas. While in college, she received many scholarships that helped finance her education and credits her success to the generosity of University donors.

Working for Fortune 500 companies in accounting and finance, eventually led Dr. Hellyer down to Houston where she met her husband, Rusty. Together, Rusty and Brenda worked with several small businesses they owned in the Deer Park and Pasadena communities. She strongly believes in serving the community, and her first involvement with San Jacinto College was as a volunteer with the San Jacinto College Foundation.

Since 2009, Dr. Hellyer has served as Chancellor of San Jacinto College, a notable Houston institution with nearly 30,000 students, four primary campuses, and an annual budget of \$252 million. Her involvement with the College began in 1996 as an inaugural director for the San Jacinto College Foundation. She later served in a number of executive positions at the college, including Executive Vice President for Resource Development, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Vice Chancellor.

After becoming Chancellor of San Jacinto College in May 2009, Dr. Hellyer led a rigorous strategic planning process to transform the image of the college. During her tenure, the college has made major infrastructure renovations and developed award-winning programs including its Maritime Training and Technology Center, Generation Park Campus, Aerospace Training facility, and the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology.

These efforts have transformed San Jacinto College into a modern community college, offering students education in collaborative classrooms and hands on training with equipment they will encounter as they move into the workforce.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Hellyer for her dedication as Chancellor of San Jacinto College, and for her outstanding community engagement in the greater Bay Area.

IN CELEBRATION OF VIETNAMESE
NEW YEAR TET 2020

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Tết, Vietnamese New Year, for 2020. The large Vietnamese community in Orange County will gather together in Little Saigon to celebrate the Year of the Rat. I am once again honored to join them in observing their traditions and rich culture.

Tết marks the beginning of a new spring where families can reunite with their ancestors, reconnect with their loved ones, and move beyond their troubles and difficulties from the past year. Furthermore, they cele-

brate and hope for a better year ahead of them. The celebration brings together the Vietnamese community in Little Saigon, the largest Vietnamese community outside of Vietnam. Fifty thousand participants and over sixty organizations will gather to celebrate with food, music, dance, and so much more. The theme for this year's parade is "With Profound Gratitude and Appreciation," where participants will express their gratitude to the ancestors who sacrificed to give forthcoming generations a brighter future. Another aspect of this year's celebration is an expression of the community's appreciation to the United States.

In the nearly fifty years since the fall of Saigon, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees have resettled and built strong communities across the United States. The United States accepted and looked after the Vietnamese community and offered the opportunity to start a new life in this great country. Here in America, they have the freedom to celebrate their basic human rights and enjoy the communities they have built after resettling.

A shining star of the Vietnamese American community of Little Saigon is the vibrant group of media outlets—Nguoi Viet Daily News, Vien Dong Daily News, Viet Bao Daily News, Vietnam America TV (VNA-TV), Saigon Broadcasting Television Network (SBTN), Little Saigon Radio, Central Broadcasting Network (CBN), and many more. They are committed to providing reliable news, preserving the Vietnamese language and culture, and enriching the lives and experiences of the Vietnamese community in the United States.

Madam Speaker and fellow colleagues, please join me in celebration of the Vietnamese New Year, Tết 2020.

HONORING DAVIS S. WELCH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Davis S. Welch as he retires following 38 years of distinguished service to the Army and the nation. Throughout his extraordinary career, he embodied the duty, honor, and loyalty that makes the U.S. Army the world's premier fighting force.

Davis' commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities in service of his nation is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity and activism of a true and devoted patriot. Throughout his career, he earned numerous academic and military accolades, including the Legion of Merit, that garnered the respect and admiration of his peers. Davis was instrumental in balancing immediate needs within resource constraints while expertly and expeditiously funding peacetime and war-related Theater, Joint, and Operational Needs Statements. His resume tells the story of a man unafraid to embrace the challenges that forge the leaders our nation needs.

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